

Sexual Health

at the Wolverton 020 8974 9331

Kingston upon Thames, Surrey (South West London)

Kingston Hospital 
NHS Trust

[Home](#) | [Find us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Links](#)

QUICK SEARCH

[Clinics & Times](#)

[Your Visit](#)

[Emergencies](#)

[Sexual Health
Information](#)

[HIV Care](#)

[e-booking](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Network](#)

STIs

Men

[Chlamydia](#)

[Gonorrhoea](#)

[Trichomonas](#)

[Urethritis](#)

[Lymphogranuloma
venereum](#)

[Syphilis](#)

[Viral hepatitis](#)

[Genital warts](#)

[Herpes](#)

[Epididymo-orchitis](#)

[Scabies](#)

[Pubic lice](#)

[Molluscum contagiosum](#)

Women

[Gay/Bisexual](#)

[Contraception](#)

[HIV](#)

[Prevention](#)

[Sex and the law](#)

[Sex/adult entertainment
industry](#)

YOUNG PEOPLE

WOMEN

MEN

GAY / BISEXUAL

[Home](#) » [Sexual Health Information](#) » [STIs](#) » [Men](#) » [Lymphogranuloma venereum](#)

Lymphogranuloma venereum

LGV (Lymphogranuloma venereum) in gay and bisexual men

What is LGV?

- LGV (Lymphogranuloma venereum) is a sexually transmitted infection caused by three strains of the bacterium [Chlamydia trachomatis](#).
- Until 2004 it was rare in the UK and was mainly seen in travellers returning from abroad.
- From 2004 outbreaks of LGV occurred in gay men across Europe and the UK.
- In the UK outbreaks of LGV occurred amongst gay men in London, Brighton and Manchester
- LGV usually infects the rectum (back passage) leading to 'proctitis' - ulceration, anal pain, bleeding, discharge and constipation. The symptoms can sometimes be severe with fevers and feeling generally unwell.
- Testing (rectal swab) needs to be done at a specialised sexual health clinic.
- LGV is easily treated with 3 weeks of antibiotics.
- Co-infection with HIV and [hepatitis C](#) is common and a full STI screen is recommended.

How common is LGV?

- LGV is common amongst gay men in London particularly in those visiting clubs and saunas.
- There have been over 1000 infections reported in gay men since the start of the outbreak in 2004 and the infection is continuing to spread.
- 75% of men with LGV are also HIV positive.

How do you catch LGV?

- LGV is passed on through unprotected sex – usually anal sex without a condom – but any of the following ways is possible:
 - Anal sex
 - Oral sex
 - Fisting without gloves
 - Using sex toys between partners

What would I notice if I had LGV?

- Most infections are caught through anal sex - this leads to inflammation in the rectum or 'proctitis':
 - Anal pain
 - Rectal bleeding
 - Rectal discharge
 - Constipation
 - Feeling of wanting to defecate
- A small painless ulcer may occur at the site of infection – such as rectum, penis or mouth
- Painful swelling of lymph glands in the groin
- Feeling flu like with fever and tiredness
- Symptoms may appear within a few days or up to 4 weeks after infection

How do I get tested for LGV?

- A chlamydia swab from the rectum (back passage).
- Specialist [sexual health clinics](#) such as the Wolverton routinely screen all gay men for rectal chlamydia.
- If you had any of the symptoms above and chlamydia was found, the swab would be sent onto a UK reference laboratory for a

special LGV test.

How is LGV treated?

- With a 3 week course of antibiotics:
 - Doxycycline 100mg twice daily for 3 weeks.
- All treatments from the Wolverton Centre are free and are given to you in the clinic
- Take doxycycline after food otherwise it make you feel sick.
- Avoid strong sunlight as it may cause a rash.

What about my partner?

- LGV is a sexually transmitted infection so it is important your current and recent partners in the last 4 weeks attend a sexual health clinic for testing and treatment.

What problems can untreated LGV lead to?

- LGV may lead to serious problems in the rectum and lower bowel with acute inflammation, ulceration, fistulae and strictures often mimicking Crohn's disease.

Will LGV come back again after treatment?

- LGV quickly clears up with antibiotic treatment but you can easily be re-infected again – so protect yourself by using a condom for all anal sex, gloves for fisting and avoid sharing sex toys.

More information

<http://www.tht.org.uk/informationresources/otherstis/lgv/>

www.bashh.org

Opening times for advice and to book an appointment:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday	8.30am - 6.00pm
Wednesday	8.30am - 8.00pm
Friday	8.30am - 1.30pm

[For clinic times please select here](#)



NHS Trust 2010 | [Terms and Conditions of use](#) | Site by Phew